



139 Incest: Analysis of a Case

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After attending this presentation, attendees will be able to: (1) identify the definition and causes of incest; (2) identify the characteristics of offender and victim; and (3) understand the indicators of sexual abuse and the process of the event when it occurs identify the signals of abuse clearly with the presentation of points of sexual abuse and incest with a case. This case is different than the other cases in literature, with the behaviors of victim's mother, who was active in speaking up, bringing the case to court, and preventing the victim from seeing her father.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by presenting an incest case which is forbidden in every culture throughout history.

Introduction: Child abuse and neglect, a universal problem, causes physical and psychological damage that negatively affect well-being and life-long development of exposed children.

When an adult uses a child for sexual stimulation or satisfaction, this is considered sexual abuse. Likewise, child prostitution or child pornography, touching of the genital area, exhibitionism, pornography, and rape can all be forms of child sexual abuse.

The word "incest" comes from "incestare" which means contaminating and aspersing and comes from "incestus" which means dirty in Latin language.

Incest is a sexual relationship between people related by blood. Because it occurs within family and is also forbidden in every culture, it is hard to reveal incest. It is emphasized that offenders in incest cases are usually fathers, the mother of family is a passive family member and also usually aware of the incest case.

Methods: The case was a 13-year-old girl described as a very successful secondary pupil. She disclosed that she had been a victim of incest for one-and-a-half years by her father. It was said that the beginning of the incest case was with her father's touching offer. She thought by threatening to tell, her father would stay away. Instead, the father began to abuse her and tried to destroy the relationship between the victim and her mother.

Her father began to beat her and tried to touch her sexually whenever he could. She kept quiet in order to keep her family together. After this situation, she disclosed that she began to have nightmares, eating and sleeping disorders. The offender father was born in 1960 and worked as a taxi driver. He had no sexual relationship with his wife for the last five years. He had nervous problems and been in treatment. Mother was born in 1963, house wife, she was economically dependent to her husband. She stated she had been raped by her husband at the beginning of their marriage but for the last five years they had no sexual relationship. She stated that she had found some pornographic scenes on her husband's personal computer after the case began.

The case arose when some relatives and neighbors told the mother that her husband had offered them sex. The mother talked to her daughter who had been very depressed recently. The daughter told her mother what had happened and the case was brought to law enforcement.

The literature about incest reveals that the mother of victim often chooses to keep the abuse secret, blame her child, and deny the facts because she is afraid of divorcing. In this case, although the mother was economically dependent on her husband, she was the pioneer person who brought the case to light by first bringing her daughter to the hospital and then contacting the police.

Conclusions: Incest is rarely revealed because it is forbidden and also it occurs within the family. This paper attempts to clarify the signals of sexual abuse and incest by describing a specific case. This case is consistent with the literature about the characteristics of offender and victim, but differs greatly in the attitude of the mother, which helped to reveal this case.

Incest, Sexual Abuse, Child